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ON A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *ISOLABIS* VERHOEFF (DERMAPTERA: BRACHYLABINAE) FROM BURMA WITH A KEY TO ORIENTAL SPECIES

Recently I had an opportunity to examine 2 ♂♂, 1 nymph from Burma, belonging to Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria", Genova, Italy. These were determined earlier by Bormans (1888) as *Brachylabis punctata* and subsequently referred to *B. caudelli* by Burr (1908). A detailed examination of these has revealed that 1 ♂ and 1 nymph belong to *Isolabis caudelli* (Burr) and the other ♂ represents a new species.

The genus *Isolabis* Verhoeff, as understood by Popham and Brindle (1966), is represented in the Oriental Region by four species namely, *I. caudelli* (Burr), *I. punctata* (Dubrony), *I. bifoveolata* (Bolivar) and *I. fletcheri* Burr.

Burr (1908) described *I. caudelli*, out the material from Burma referred by Bormans (1888) to *Brachylabis punctata*. In both these species eyes are about as long as or slightly longer than the post-ocular length. But in the former mesonotum has a sharp ridge all along the lateral margin whereas in the latter pronotum is smooth.

In *I. fletcheri* (Burr, 1910), originally described on a ♀ from Ceylon and subsequently by Borelli (1926) on a ♀ from Java, sides of mesonotum are provided with curved, raised fold in apical half only and eyes are almost equal to post-ocular length of head which is evident from Burr's figure (1910, pl. 8, fig. 79) and femora are black with apices reddish. Srivastava (1970) has redescribed *I. bifoveolata* (Bolivar), on a large series from Anamalai Hills, Tamil Nadu (India) and observed that size of eyes in relation to post-ocular length, and the shape of mesonotum does not show any variations. Therefore these characters can be safely used for the separation of various species.

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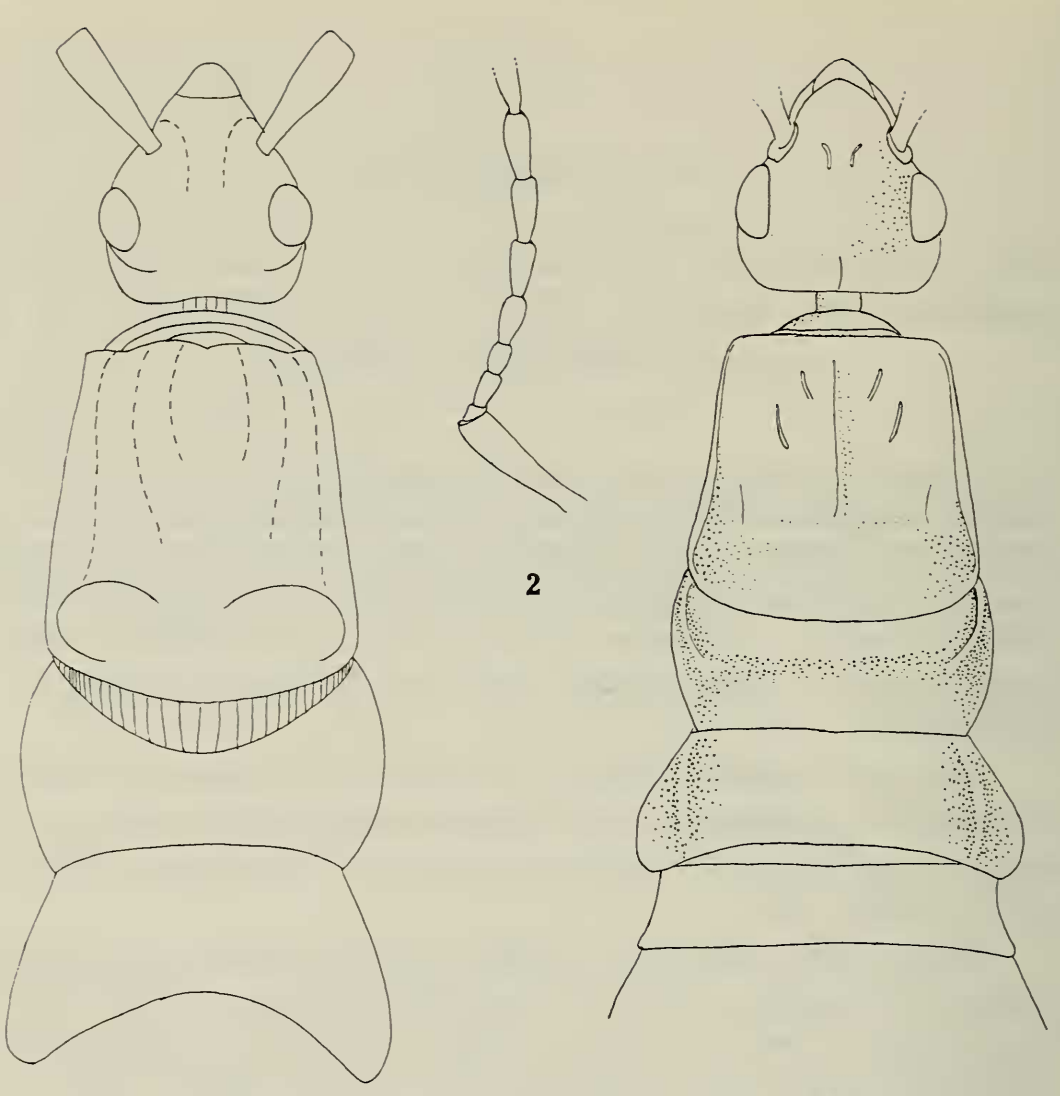


Figs. *Isolabis bifoveolata* (Bolivar) ♂, 1. Anterior part of body, 2. A portion of antenna; *I. punctata* (Dubrony) ♀, 3. Anterior part of body (redrawn from Dubrony, 1879).

Key to the species

1 (6). Mesonotum with a blunt fold or sharp ridge laterally

2 (5). Mesonotum with a curved blunt fold laterally in apical half only

3 (4). Size larger (14-18.6 mm); eyes longer than the post-ocular length (fig. 1); legs with femora testaceous brown . . . . . *I. bifoveolata* (Bolivar)

4 (3). Size smaller (8-11 mm); eyes almost equal to post-ocular length; legs with femora black but reddish apically . . . . . *I. fletcheri* (Burr)

5 (2). Mesonotum with a sharp ridge all along the lateral margin (fig. 4) . . . . . *I. caudelli* (Burr)

6 (1). Mesonotum smooth laterally (without any ridge or fold)

7 (8). Eyes slightly longer than the post-ocular length (fig. 3) . . . . . *I. punctata* (Dubrony)

8 (7). Eyes a little over twice as long as the post-ocular length (fig. 7) . . . . . *I. ocellata* sp. n.

Isolabis ocellata sp. n.

♂ - General colour dark brownish black, lighter on the sides of pronotum and hind margin of tergites, legs yellow with femora dark brownish black in basal two thirds, antennae with one or two pre-apical segments yellow. Head, thorax and abdomen densely punctate, punctation heavier on tergites in distal half, forceps smooth.

Head convex, triangular, slightly broader than long, sutures faint, hind margin almost straight. Eyes prominent, a little over twice as long as the post-ocular length. Antennae partly damaged (11 segments remaining on the both sides); 1st stout, gently expanded apically, longer than the distance between antennal bases; 2nd small; 3rd cylindrical; subclavate, slightly shorter than 3rd; 5th almost equal to 3rd, narrowed at base; afterwards segments becoming thinner and gradually increasing in length. Pronotum rectangular, a trifle broader than long, anteriorly, convex in middle, sides straight, gently reflexed, feebly diverging posteriorly, hind angles weak and margin subtruncate, median sulcus faintly marked in anterior half only; prozona raised with a pair of faint depressions on either side of median sulcus; metazona weakly raised. Mesonotum transverse, sides smooth (without any carina or fold), hind margin faintly emarginate. Mesonotum transverse, deeply emarginate. Legs long, slender, tarsi on underside covered with long and short pubescence, hind metatarsus slightly longer than the combined length of pro and meso-tarsi, mesotarsus about half as long as protarsus. Abdomen narrowed apically as well as basally, weakly convex, lateral folds on the sides of 3rd and 4th tergites poorly developed, sides of segments rounded. Penultimate sternite triangular, punctate, hind mar-

gin rounded but deeply incised in middle. Ultimate tergite, strongly transverse, punctation faint in posterior half, weakly declivient backwards, posterior margin tri-sinuate, oblique laterally, above the roots of forceps with a triangular lobe. Pygidium scarcely visible from above, vertical, narrowed apically. Forceps with branches sub-contiguous and dilated at base, thence gradually tapering, almost straight in basal two thirds, afterwards incurved with apices pointed and hooked, inner margin finely serrulated.

♀ - Unknown.

Measurements (in mm) of Holotype ♂

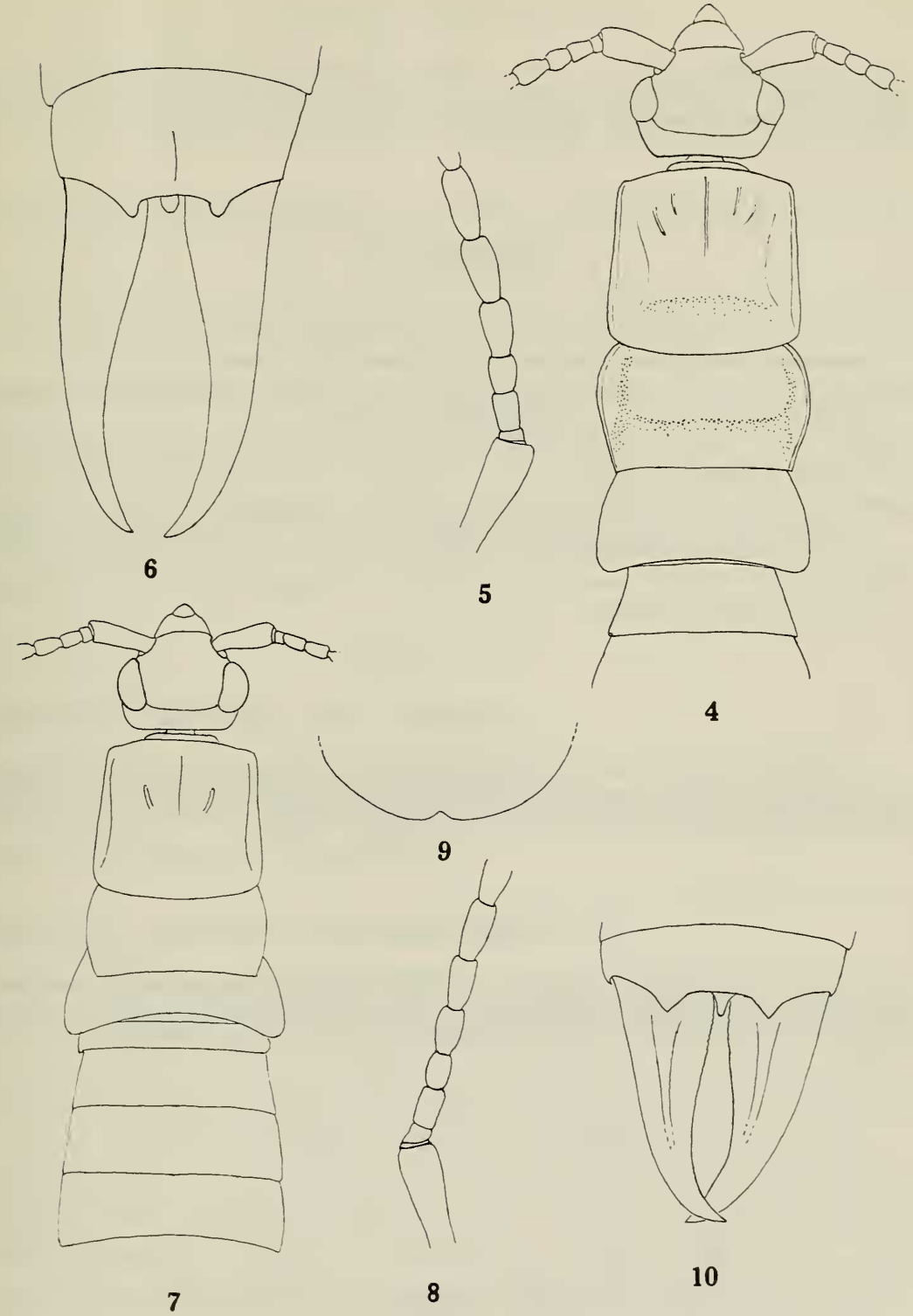
Length of eye	0.520
Length of genae	0.195
Length of body (without forceps)	8.90
Length of forceps	1.45

Material examined - Burma: Tenasserim, Meetan, Holotype ♂, April, 1887, L. Fea (determined by Bormans as *Brachylabis punctata* Dubrony and by Burr and Borelli as *Brachylabis caudelli* and *Metisolabis caudelli* (Burr), respectively); deposited at Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria", Genova, Italy.

Remarks - This species can be easily differentiated from *I. caudelli* Burr, in having the eyes a little over twice the length of genae and mesonotum devoid of any carina or fold laterally.

It resembles *I. punctata* (Dubrony), from Java, on account of smooth mesonotum but differs by the presence of large eyes which reach almost up to the hind angles of head whereas in the latter eyes are almost equal to post-ocular length.

The specimen designated here as holotype appears to have been examined by Burr and Borelli. It is likely any one of them might have removed the genitalia for study which, however, is not traceable in Genova Museum.



Figs. *Isolabis caudelli* (Burr) ♂, 4. Anterior part of body, 5. A portion of antenna, 6. Ultimate tergite and forceps; *Isolabis ocellata* sp. nov., Holotype ♂, 7. Anterior part of body, 8. A portion of antenna, 9. Posterior margin of penultimate sternite, 10. Ultimate tergite and forceps.

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Summary

The present paper contains the description of a new species of the genus *Isolabis* Verhoeff: *I. ocellata* from Burma together with a key to the identification of all the known species of the genus from the Oriental Region.

Riassunto

Viene descritta *Isolabis ocellata* n. sp. di Dermaptera Brachylabinae proveniente dalla Birmania meridionale (Tenasserim) e viene fornita una chiave analitica per la determinazione delle specie orientali appartenenti al gen. *Isolabis* Verhoeff.